SATURDAY,

The PENNSYLVANIA GAZETTE.

Containing the Freſheſt Advices, Foreign and Domeſtic.

Meſſieurs HALL and SELLERS.

The defenders of Britiſh cruelty have uniformly denied the American charges againſt our enemies for their inhumanity, practiſed upon the unfortunate whom the chance of war has put into their hands. As the hiſtory and execution of Francis Mercier will throw ſome light upon this ſubject, you are requeſted to inſert the ſame in your Gazette, as it has been publiſhed in a London paper the 10th of December laſt.

FRANCIS Mercier, executed on Monday laſt for the murder of Monſieur de Moudrey, a French jeweller, was in the year 1773 tranſported to Maryland for horſe ſtealing. On his arrival in the country he had his freedom; but being ſuſpected a few days after he got his liberty, of adminiſtering poiſon to Capt. M'Culloch, the maſter of the veſſel he went out in, and who had treated him with great tenderneſs, he was taken up, and ſome effects and money of the Captain's found upon him, which he had ſtolen upon a ſuppoſition the Captain muſt die; he recovering, and getting his property, Mercier was again ſet at liberty. A very ſhort time after this he was condemned to be hanged for breaking open a druggiſt's ſhop in Baltimore; but by the intervention of Mr. Chamier, who ſeems to have been a particular friend to this man, he was pardoned by Mr. Eden, the Governor of Maryland, upon condition of his quitting the province, which he neglecting to do for ſome days, and threatening vengeance againſt his proſecutors, ſearch was made for him, and he fled. Not being heard of there for ſome time, it was generally reported and believed he was hung at New-York. But from thence he made his way to Halifax, and afterwards to Boſton. At both theſe places he met his friend Mr. Chamier, who being then in a ſituation of continuing his kind offices to Mercier, recommended him as a ſurgeon to the army then at Boſton, at 5s. per day. Two days after the affair of Bunker's-Hill, he was taken priſoner by the Americans, as he was conducting ſome waggons with wounded ſoldiers, and was carried to Cambridge. Having obtained laudanum under pretence of making him ſleep, he gave it to the centinels placed over him, and thereby effected his eſcape, made his way on foot to Philadelphia, and took up his reſidence there, depending upon his not being known. Here he acted for ſome time as a dentiſt. After this, he went to New-York while in poſſeſſion of the Provincials, and was preſent at ſeveral of the meetings of the conſpirators there, who, he ſaid, with the Mayor of the town at their head, had determined to deſtroy all the Provincial magazines, and put to death Waſhington, Miffin and Putnam. The deſign being diſcovered by the means of one Low, ſeveral of them were apprehended, and one condemned to be hung. Mercier going to ſee this man executed, was known by ſome people who were there from Cambridge, who charged him before General Livingſton with having made his eſcape from thence, and that he was a ſurgeon to the regular army; he denied that he was there, or that he was a ſurgeon. He was however committed to priſon, where he continued until the men of war arrived before New-York. The goaler then let him out, and he making his eſcape on board the Niger, made them ſenſible who *he* was, and gave them information for the better landing the troops, and with a party that day took 303 priſoners with their baggage. For theſe ſervices, and the laughable manner in which he informed General Howe he had killed an American Major, he received one hundred guineas, and an advance of 5s. per day to his pay as ſurgeon; as ſuch, when General Howe took poſſeſſion of New-York, the care of the American priſoners was entruſted to him; and though the manner of diſcharging that truſt was attended with the moſt glaring marks of inhumanity, the recital of them ſeemed to give him ſingular ſatisfaction. The goaler of New-York, in whoſe cuſtody Mercier and the other conſpirators had been, was the firſt victim of his brutality. He ſaid the Mayor deſired him to *be very careful* of that man. The man died in three days time.— Low, who had diſcovered the conſpiracy, was the next object; Mercier was deſired to pay *great attention* to him likewiſe; he died too. Low's wife, who had been ſuſpected of conveying intelligence, and who had actually ſeveral valuable trinkets about her, did not long ſurvive. *The effects of all perſons who died under Mercier's care, became his property.* Many of theſe poor people were in want of neceſſary cloathing; none was given them, except a ſingle ſhirt; but when any died, the infected cloaths were given to the ſurvivors: This encreaſed the peſtilential diſorder, which raged with ſuch violence, that in the courſe of five months 573 periſhed. In ſhort, according to his own expreſſion, "*The Rebels died like fun.*" That upon General Howe's expreſſing his ſurprize that the people ſhould die ſo faſt, and doubting their being properly fed, Mercier told him they had more proviſions *ſet before them* than they could eat; and ſo it proved, for the dead and dying before whom theſe proviſions were ſo ſet had but very little appetites. Being aſked ſince he came to England the reaſon of this extraordinary mortality, he replied, they were ſo faint-hearted, that he never told any one he would die but he died accordingly; however, he ſaid, the rebels dying in an uncommon manner was not confined to New-York, for that in Philadelphia, while *he* was there, 3000 died in a very ſhort time, and to *his knowledge* it aroſe from the wells being poiſoned.

One cannot but be grieved to find this wretch placed in a ſituation, wherein he was enabled to do ſuch miſchief, as to bring on this nation the imputation of inhumanity, which it will not eaſily efface. With reſpect to him, he might conſider himſelf as the friend to what is called Government, and therefore warranted, as others are, in uſing every means which God and Nature put in his power to make away with thoſe, whom he looked on as enemies. It is certain, he had as clear ideas of the right, and was as eager in ſupport of the authority of Parliament, as moſt country gentlemen; for he got more than they ever will, in the attempt to carry it into execution. In ſhort, bad as his moral character may appear, he undoubtedly had much political merit, or, at leaſt, as much as Ball, M'Quirk, and *ſuch like.*

BOSTON, May 4.

We hear from Providence, That on Tueſday laſt General Sullivan Commander of our troops there received an imperious dictatorial letter from Brigadier General Pigot, Commander of the Britiſh tyrant's forces at Newport (incloſing the Draught of two Bills which had been only once read in the Britiſh Houſe of Commons) wherein he ſaid, that the terms offered the rebels were more gracious than they could, or had reaſon to expect, from the hands of his moſt merciful Maſter; which ſentence ſo exaſperated the populace there, that they ordered the Bills to be burnt by the hands of the common Hangman, which was immediately executed. General Sullivan we hear anſwered General Pigot's letter in a very genteel but ſevere manner.

May 7. Friday laſt arrived at Portſmouth the Continental Frigate Dean, Samuel Nicholſon Eſq; Commander, in 63 days from France, and has brought a valuable cargoe, conſiſting of 12000 ſuits of cloaths for the army compleat, a large quantity of copper, tin and lead, beſides many other valuable articles; two other ſhips came out with her, on the Continental ſervice; all under convoy of three 74, two 64, and three frigates, who had orders from the French Court to attend them, 'till they were clear of the Bay of Biſcay— The Dean had taken two prizes, one of which was burnt. Capt. Jones, in the Ranger, joined the French fleet at Quiberoon Bay, and ſaluted the French Admiral with 13 guns under Continental colours; to which he returned nine; this was the firſt inſtance of a French Admiral paying that honour to the United States.——— The Ranger had taken two prizes, laden with Raiſons, Figs, Lemmons and Wine; and carried them to a French port— Doctor Franklin is now publickly acknowledged as an Ambaſſador of the United States, and makes his appearance at the French Court, in the ſame manner as Lord Stormont does for Great-Britain.

Saturday laſt the Cumberland privateer, of 20 guns, returned into port from a ſucceſsful cruize. Beſides the prizes already mentioned to have been taken by her, ſhe brought in with her a ſhip of about 350 tons, laden with coal and a few goods, bound from New-Caſtle for the enemy at New-York. We hear ſhe alſo retook a ſchooner, laden with tobacco, bound for France, together with a ſmall privateer which took her.

Monday laſt arrived here a French letter of marque ſhip of 20 guns, laden with dry goods, &c, &c.

Laſt Tueſday arrived in this port from France a frigate, mounting 36 guns, belonging to his Moſt Chriſtian Majeſty.

Tueſday laſt the ſhip Hancock, of 36 guns, was launched at Saliſbury; ſhe is reckoned to be one of the fineſt frigates in the ſervice of the Independent American States.

NEW-LONDON, May 8.

Laſt Thurſday was ſent into Boſton, by the American Revenue, Captain Champlain, and the Revenge, Captain Conkling, both of this port, the ſhip Lovely Laſs, —— Wade, late maſter from London, bound to New-York, with the following cargoe, viz. 255 bales dry goods, 7 bales hops, 5 ditto pepper, 1 hogſhead hams, 827 barrels flour, 29 puncheons old ſpirits, 4 bales beaver fur, 64 cheſts tea, 370 caſks wine, 7 hampers ditto, 8 caſes acid, 137 baſkets cheeſe, 29 hogſheads loaf ſugar, 2 hogſheads porter, and a quantity of cordage. The amount of her invoices in London is ſaid to be Twenty-five Thouſand Pounds ſterling.

FISH-KILL, May 14.

Extract of a letter from a principal officer, on the Northern frontiers of this State, to his Excellency Governor Clinton, dated May the 4th.

"Two deſerters came in laſt Friday night to Dorſet, have been ſixteen days from St. John's, inform us that the enemy are removing their cannon over the carrying place towards Montreal, that there was a general talk of the French being in the mouth of the river St. Lawrence:— That Governor Carleton had ordered a number of Canadians from every pariſh to take up arms, and on their refuſal ſent the German troops to compel them, on which an engagement had enſued, and fifty Germans fell. That a great ſickneſs attended them, and ſcarce any ſavages were with them."

TRENTON, May 13.

The enemy having received intelligence that the Row-Galleys were diſmantled, on Friday laſt formed an expedition up the Delaware (conſiſting of the following force, two Row-Galleys, and three other armed veſſels, with twenty-four flat-bottomed boats, carrying between ſix and eight hundred Britiſh troops) in order to deſtroy the continental frigates, and a number of veſſels that had been lodged in the different creeks; and to atchieve ſuch other exploits, as have characterized the Britiſh arms ſince the commencement of this cruel and unnatural war. Having ſet fire to the frigates and other veſſels, they landed at Bordentown, burnt the dwelling-houſe and ſtores belonging to Joſeph Borden, Eſq; and inhumanly butchered three of the militia, who unfortunately fell into their hands.— The wind and tide being favourable, the country was not alarmed until the frigates were on fire.—The next day they proceeded as far up the river as Biles's iſland, with an intention of viſiting this place, but their boats meeting with an unexpected oppoſition from our artillery, which General Dickinſon ordered down for that purpoſe, and the militia turning out with their uſual ſpirit, upon receiving his orders, vaſt numbers were quickly aſſembled; after exchanging a few ſhot, the enemy thought appearances too unfavourable to proceed any farther.— On their return, they called at Col. Kirkbride's farm, and deſtroyed all the buildings of every kind.—— General Dickinſon having ſent a detachment of militia down the river, to prevent the inhabitants from ſmall parties, they made prize of a ſloop the enemy had loaded with plunder, with ſix men on board.

Thus do theſe people ſeek Peace; and thus would they conciliate the affections of the Americans!— At the very time that terms are pretended to be offered, and propoſals of accommodation, as they ſay, on the point of being made, fire and ſword are carried to our habitations, and theſe inſtruments of violence are committing every ſpecies of rapine, plunder and cruelty! This is the application of Lord North's Sermon on the 17th of Feb. laſt!

Monday evening laſt arrived here from Head-Quarters, Lieut. Col. De Hart, with the firſt Jerſey regiment, and early yeſterday morning this corps marched to join Col. Shreve at Haddonfield.

YORK-TOWN, May 23.

Intelligence juſt received from Charleſtown, South-Carolina, April 21, 1778:

"An expreſs arrived this morning from Georgia, with advice, that Col. Elbert, and Col. White, in the Waſhington and Lee Gallies of that State, joined by the Bullock Galley, had taken, at the iſland of Frederica, the following veſſels, belonging to the King of England, viz. the Hinchenbrook brigantine, commanded by Captain Ellis; a ſloop, commanded by the famous Captain Moubray, and an armed ſchooner; the Britiſh crews belonging to theſe veſſels fled as ſoon as they were attacked, and got on ſhore in their boats, with what they could carry off; but it is ſaid Captain Ellis was drowned.

"Our gallies are gone to attack the Galatea man of war, ſaid to be on ſhore at Jekyl Iſland.* This ſhip, the Galatea, has long infeſted the coaſt, and interrupted the trade of Georgia and South-Carolina.

"We are menaced with an expedition from St. Auguſtine againſt Georgia, and are ſending troops from hence to the aſſiſtance of our Siſter State. Col. Charles Coteſworth Pinckney, at the head of them, marched this evening.

"Incendiaries continue their diabolical attempts to deſtroy the remaining part of this town—not content with the miſchiefs which they have already committed; laſt night Mr. Clifford's ſtables in King-ſtreet, and a houſe in Broad-ſtreet, were ſet on fire, but happily prevented from ſpreading.

"The Rattleſnake privateer, of Philadelphia, Captain M'Cullough, has carried two prizes into Georgia, one with dry goods for the army at New-York, the other a retaken veſſel, with ſalt. She has likewiſe taken and ſent in here a Jamaica ſchooner, and a brigantine from the Bay of Honduras."

Letters from the camp, at the Valley-forge, dated May 17 and 19, adviſe, "That by every intelligence from Philadelphia the enemy are preparing to evacuate that city. Their ſhips are wooded and watered, their heavy cannon embarked, forage and proviſions put on board their veſſels, and ſtalls built in them for their horſes, all which are ſtriking circumſtances of their departure; but there is one ſtill more corroborating, all the factors that came with the army and the tories are exceedingly buſy in packing up their all, and no leſs aſſiduous are the gentlemen of the army. It is reported the enemy are impreſſing all the young men in and near the city, and that no inhabitant is allowed to go into Water-ſtreet."

IN CONGRESS, May 19, 1778.

WHEREAS Congreſs, by a reſolve paſſed the 19th day of January laſt, determined that captive officers ſhould receive pay, as well when on parole as when in the enemy's poſſeſſion, for ſo long time as they continue to be officers of the United States, and liable to be called into ſervice upon being releaſed from their captivity: And whereas divers officers have been and may be made priſoners, and continue ſuch beyond the period within which they are liable to be called into ſervice; and as it has been found that ſuch officers, when releaſed on parole, are ſometimes debarred from the purſuit of their former employments, or, being liable always to be recalled into captivity at the pleaſure of the enemy, are prevented from entering into ſuch engagements and plans of buſineſs as their neceſſary ſupport demands:

Reſolved, That all officers in the land ſervice of the United States, who have been or ſhall be made priſoners by the enemy, ſhall be entitled to receive their full pay and rations while in the enemy's poſſeſſion, deducting only from their rations ſuch ſupplies as they may have received from the enemy, or the Commiſſary of priſoners; and that all ſuch officers when admitted on their parole ſhall receive their full pay, without rations, until they ſhall be exchanged or diſcharged from their parole, or that a general change of circumſtances ſhall render their pay no longer neceſſary for their ſupport, as Congreſs ſhall hereafter determine.

MAY 22.

Reſolved, That it be recommended to the Legiſlatures of the reſpective States, to enact laws for exempting from militia duty all perſons who have deſerted or ſhall hereafter deſert from the Britiſh army or navy, during the preſent war.

That it be farther recommended to the Legiſlatures of the reſpective States to diſqualify, by Law, all traitors and deſerters from acting as Inſtitutes in the ſeveral

* *Frederica Iſland lies [illegible] north, and [illegible] ſouth ſide of Jekyl Sound, [illegible] State of Georgia, [illegible] 80 miles from Savanna. [illegible] veſſels more, in all [illegible] hilly, going to plunder the [illegible] on Alatamaha [illegible]*

during the present war, to render all such c... and to authorize any prisoner, or deserter who ... gaged as a substitute, to appropriate to his ow... monies by him received on such agreement.

Extract from the minutes,

CHARLES THOMSON, *Secretary.*

Extracts of Letters taken on board a vessel bound from New-York to Philadelphia, and stranded on Cape Henlopen.—From the original letters in the hands of the Printers.

From Mr. John Lancaster, at New-York, to James Parker, Esq; at Philadelphia, dated April 24, 1778.

"Your kind letter of the 13th current came to hand yesterday, and am exceedingly obliged to you for the intelligence conveyed in it, and am confident, if I could be so happy to receive a letter from you once a week while I stay in this place, it would entirely remove that depression of spirits I have laboured under ever since I saw Lord North's dying speech. I do assure you that, and some other things of that sort, was almost too much for me. At this place vast numbers of copies of the bills were struck off and handed about. A courier sent off with a flag to Putnam's lines; some sent in a flag to Elizabeth-Town, where, it is said, the Rebel Commandant threw them into the fire."

From Mrs. D. Brown, at New-York, to her Son, Lieutenant Charles Brown, of the 15th Regiment, at Philadelphia, dated April 25, 1778.

"Sir Henry Clinton leaves this in a few days for Philadelphia, to take the command, when I suppose Sir W. Howe will decamp. We are all here in the greatest consternation at the pacific measures the Ministry seem disposed to take with the Americans. General Tryon lately sent a copy of the acts to Governor Livingston in the Jerseys, who returned them with the greatest contempt imaginable, desiring him to make use of the paper. By all accounts, a French war is inevitable; which is an alarming circumstance. Lord North appears, by his speech, to be frightened out of his wits. I am most wretched that I cannot get away. I shall have double danger to encounter, if a French war breaks out."

From Mr. Thomas Buchanan, and Company, at New-York, to Mr. William Robb, Merchant, in Philadelphia, dated April 26, 1778.

"Since writing you the 10th of April, we received your few lines dated the 14th, and are sorry to observe that the Glasgow, Capt. Craig, is ordered home, and the Brig Jeanie to this port; we made not the least doubt from your former letter, of the Glasgow remaining till next winter. We hope the amount bought of old materials is not great, as in all probability she will be sold, if discharged from the service. We are much afraid there will be no chance of getting the Jeanie continued in the service, as we think there is no great prospect of many vessels being wanted this year. Capt. Leurd gave us a certificate up to the day our sloop Patty was taken, and was it not for the careless manner she got ashore would have given us an order to get payment; but we are to petition the General, setting forth the Patty being burnt by our troops, and in time we may perhaps get payment.

"The cheveaux de frize in your river has cost our underwriters a large sum, and our friend Mr. Yates has been very unfortunate in the Delaware. In what manner the terms will be treated by the Americans is yet uncertain, and makes it very dangerous to purchase American produce at the advanced prices."

From Mr. Joseph Allicocke, at New-York, to Mr. James Seagrove, Merchant, in Philadelphia, dated April 27, 1778.

"Various are the opinions amongst us, of the effect the late extraordinary acts and speech will have on the minds of the rebellious crew. I wish it may tend to a division of sentiments, and set them at daggers drawing within themselves, which might be productive of good, and probably bring about an honourable and permanent settlement, so much wished for by millions."

[*N. B.* This gentleman distinguished himself in so conspicuous a manner in opposition to the famous Stamp-act, as to be distinguished by the Sons of Liberty in New-York by the appellation of *King Allicocke*, from an allusion to the number of men he had under his command, who were ready to execute his orders in defence of the liberties of the people.]

From Mr. Robert Steel, and Company, in London, to Mr. Hugh Warden, Merchant, in New-York, Jan. 7, 1778.

"Now with respect to the goods you ordered to be shipped from hence next month, the situation of matters in your quarter is such, that it gives us the greatest uneasiness that we have already shipped so largely both to you and other friends. We do not so much as think of shipping any thing to any body till we see affairs wear a very different aspect; indeed, all our other friends with you positively forbid us to ship a single article till further orders, and seem much surprised they have any goods coming. Twelve Guineas per cent. premium is now giving here to insure goods at New-York from fire and the enemy till 1st. of April next, and Twenty Guineas per cent. have been given to pay a loss if our troops are not in possession of New-York the first of this month, and we have every appearance of a French and Spanish war.

"You see the ballance of your account is a very serious sum, and you must think us very far from being difficult in point of faith; we are perfectly satisfied of your good intentions, but were any misfortune to happen, our friends, whose property we are intrusted with, would never forgive us for embarking so deeply, and we trust you will never give us cause to repent.

"Nothing more will we think of shipping to any man, till we have received considerable remittances and more favourable news."

From the same to the same, dated Feb. 4, 1778.

"New-York must be quite glutted with goods; notwithstanding several people here are shipping considerably to for New-York and Philadelphia, which surprizes us. We are exceedingly uneasy at our having shipped so largely, and unless we hear very favourable accounts, and have very large remittances in the course of a few months, we are determined to ship no more of any consequence this season—for ten commissions are not equal to the anxiety we have upon our minds, in having more than our all at stake in that quarter. We hope for more favourable accounts from your quarter."

The Boston Gazette, of May 11, mentions, That Dr. Franklin has been presented to the Court of Versailles as the Envoy Plenipotentiary of the United States, and very graciously received; and that the King has appointed Monsieur Gerrards, one of the principal officers of the

virtue of the act ... passing for the purpose of quieting ... disturbances subsisting in the colonies, are, the Earl of Carlisle, Treasurer of his Majesty's household; Lord Viscount Howe, or the Commander in Chief of his Majesty's naval forces on the American station for the time being; the Hon. Sir William Howe, or the Commander in Chief for the time being of the army in North-America; W. Eden, Esq; one of the Commissioners of Trade and Plantation; and Richard Jackson, one of his Majesty's Council, and Counsel to the Board of Trade and Plantations. The Secretary of the Commission is said be Henry Strachey, Esq; Member for Bishops-Castle.

We hear that all the new Highland corps are to embark for America in May next; the Edinburgh and Glasgow volunteers, and the Duke of Hamilton's regiment are to remain at home. The camp equipage of some of these regiments is shipped at London, the cloathing and arms are now on the way. Gen. Trapan's regiment, now in Edinburgh Castle, is under orders to March to Greenock the 24th instant, to embark for Cork, to join the other regiments destined to America.

Lord North yesterday in his speech treated the rumour of a French war as a matter of mere surmise, at least so far as he knew, having only heard of it by the tongue of common report; at the same time alledging, that even if such an event should happen, the resources and internal strength of this nation were amply sufficient for the purposes both of defence and offence; and the credit, as well as the commerce of the country, would hardly feel the shock of such an attack. This he was certain of, that the stocks would not fall lower than they are at present by a war with France, for they were now reduced more by the stratagems of the enemy than the effect of the contest.

March 10. Two thousand men, being about half the number to be raised by the new Scotch levies, have received orders to embark on the 2d of April in the Clyde.

March 11. The battalions intended for Nova-Scotia are, M'Leane's, Campbell's, and the 70th regiment, in all about 3000 men.

Col. Murray's, Col. Mackenzie's, and Col. Gordon's new raised corps, with half of Lord Seaforth's and half of Lieut. Col. M'Donnell's, are under orders for embarking at Inverness, to join the army under Sir W. Howe.

Orders are sent to Woolwich, for a train of artillery to be got in readiness to be shipped for New-York, which is to go with the next convoy.

March 12. Orders are sent to Portsmouth for two men of war and a frigate to be got in readiness to carry to America the commissioners to adjust all disputes with the different colonies; they are to sail the beginning of next month.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Yesterday his Majesty went to the House of Peers, attended by the Duke of Ancaster and the Earl of Oxford, and gave the royal assent to the following bills, viz.

The bill to enable his Majesty to appoint commissioners, with sufficient powers to treat and agree upon the means of quieting the disturbances now subsisting in certain of his American colonies.

The bill to declare the intentions of the Parliament of Great-Britain, concerning the exercise of imposing taxes in the American colonies.

The bill to repeal an act that imposed a duty on tea imported from Great-Britain into any of the American colonies.

The bill to repeal an act to regulate the government of Massachusetts-Bay.

March 17. A Privy Council is summoned to meet this day at St. James's after the levee is over, said to be on the issuing a proclamation for the declaration of war against France.

The Directors of the bank, it is said, waited upon Lord North on Monday at one o'clock, to know whether a war would happen as soon as expected, when his Lordship, for their satisfaction, gave for answer, that it was inevitable.

Yesterday orders were issued from the War-Office, by order of the King and Council, for all Governors, Lieutenant Governors, &c. who are absent from their respective garrisons, forts or castles, to repair to their stations forthwith in England, Ireland, or elsewhere.

The Commissioners that are to go to America had a meeting at the Earl of Carlisle's house, and were several hours in consultation.

It is supposed that war will be declared against France on Friday or Saturday.

March 23. Friday Lord Amherst was promoted to the rank of General, an order to his taking upon him the command in chief of all the forces in America.

Letters by the last French mail say, that all the English families, in and near Paris, had received the usual notice to quit that kingdom within a certain limited time, and were preparing for their route to England accordingly.

A messenger extraordinary was dispatched to Lord Grantham, our Ambassador at the Court of Madrid, three days before the King's message was delivered to Parliament, instructing his Lordship to demand a categorical answer to the following simple question: "Whether "the Court of Spain meant to aid the French in their "present unjustifiable conduct with respect to the Ame-"rican disputes, or to preserve the strictest neutrality?" With further directions, that if any thing evasive was offered in reply, to leave the Spanish dominions immediately.

To know the event of the above spirited instructions, is urged as the principal reason for suspending the declaration of war against France.

Extract of a letter from Portsmouth, March 20.

"Since my last arrived several transports from the Downs, and several coasters; the men out of all the coasters were impressed immediately. We have now 15 men of war lying at Spithead and the Motherbank, and are almost fully manned; the press continues very hot here."

The Marquis of Noailles arrived at Dover on Friday evening, on his return to Paris; he ... ing greatly indisposed when he re...

A COPPER[illegible] of a large and ... on that branch of ... ing to Mr. John ... Lancaster, or to the Printers hereof, enter into immediate employ.

FOR SALE,

AN excellent high-bred BAY HORSE, four years old, and several BROOD MARES, with horse colts, of this spring, got by him, and the expence of ... this season by the same defrayed. Enquire of ... HILL, near Wright's Ferry, Susquehanna.

TO be sold to the highest bidder, at the house of ... Smith, farmer, in Maidenhead, six miles from Trenton, on the 20th day of June next, viz.

1 new twelve inch cable, 120 fathoms,
1 ten and a half inch ditto, 110 ditto, almost new.
1 seven and a half inch ditto, 90 fathoms, not half worn.

Shrowds, stays and standing rigging, for a vessel of 200 tons burthen.

ALSO to be sold at Easton, in Pennsylvania, on the 15th of June, by public sale, a compleat suit of sails and running rigging for a brigantine of about 200 tons burthen. For particulars, apply to

STEPHEN JOSEPH ROUGET.

TO BE SOLD,

A Valuable Plantation, situate in the Manahan township, York county, in the State of Pennsylvania, containing 167 acres; 38 acres of upland cleared, 8 or 9 acres of good meadow, and upwards of 20 more may be made, a young bearing orchard, containing 100 apple-trees; likewise a good dwelling-house, barn, stables and other out-houses necessary for a farm, all in good repair. Any person inclining to purchase, may know the terms of sale, by applying to the subscriber, or to LEWIS WILLIAMS, adjoining the premises. JACOB BENNER.

York-Town, May 22, 1778.

LOST or stolen in Middleton, on the 16th instant, a leather POCKET-BOOK, containing a certificate for taking the oath of allegiance and fidelity, several receipts, and a continental lottery ticket, No. 89,223; the Managers are requested, if the ticket should prove fortunate, not to pay the same to any person except the subscriber, or those whom he shall empower. Whoever has found said book, and will bring it to the subscriber, or to Col. Blaine, near Carlisle, shall have Two Dollars reward, paid by GEORGE MORRISON.

York-Town, May 19, 1778.

LOST or STOLEN this day, a Leather POCKET-BOOK, containing between Eight and Ten Pounds in money, some writings, and two lottery tickets No. 84968 and 84998, indorsed on the back in company with Joist Herbock and Henry Strickler. The tickets are the property of the subscriber, in company with the above-mentioned persons. Should they prove fortunate, the managers of the lottery are requested not to pay the prizes to any persons but the abovementioned. Whoever has found the pocket-book, and will deliver it to the subscriber, or to HENRY WOLF, in this town, shall have Four Dollars reward, besides what money was in the pocket-book. PHILIP JACOB KING.

York-Town, May 22, 1778.

COMMITTED to York-Town goal, on the 11th inst. a certain Negroe man, named WILL. Had on when he was committed, a red kersey jacket, white cotton breeches and a tow shirt; says he run away from one Mr. Peters, in George-Town, Maryland. His master is desired to come, pay charges, and take him away.

MICHAEL GRAYBILL, Goaler.

ON the 6th of April last a Desk belonging to John Lindsay, of Guilford township, Cumberland county, in the State of Pennsylvania, was broke open, and a number of Bonds taken away, they were all payable to Thomas Birney, now deceased, and were in the possession of said Lindsay, as one of the executors of the last will and testament of said deceased; the bonds were as follow, viz. five bonds for 60l. each, and one for l. 33:6:8, all of them on John Alexander. Three ditto, dated November 24, 1777, for 100l. each, on Robert Birney. One ditto, dated in July, 1777, for 210l. on Patrick and Ter. Campbell. One ditto, dated about the 9th of November, for 200l. on John and Samuel Beard. One ditto, dated the 16th of November, for 203l. on David Adams. One ditto, for 27l. on William M'Cun. And one ditto, for 200l. on William Turner.----The above bonds were stolen by a certain Thomas Birney, who it is supposed intends to sell or assign them. As the dates of several of the bonds are not certainly known, all persons are hereby forewarned not to purchase or take assignments of them or either of them. We do hereby promise the sum of FIFTY DOLLARS Reward to any person that will secure said Birney in any goal in this State, so that he may be brought to justice, and reasonable charges, paid by JOHN LINDSAY, jun. and MARY BIRNEY.

THIS day came to the plantation of the subscriber, in Hellam township, about 4 miles from York-Town, on the great road leading to Susquehanna, a bay MARE, about 10 years old, paces, about 12 hands high, ... branded, a star in her forehead, no shoes on ... owner is desired to come, prove his property, pay charges, and take her away. MICHAEL DOSSLER.

May 20, 1778.

CAME to the plantation of Victor King, deceased, in Tyrone township, ... the 4th of April, a black MARE, between ... and 12 hands high, a natural pacer, about ... years old, no brand. The ... pay charges, and take her away.

CAME to the ... Humphreys, in Penn ... about the first of ... three years old, ... advertised property, pay charges, and take her away.

YORK-TOWN: Printed by ...